

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013

ATTENDING:

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Joyce Camlin, Donna Carlisle, Sue Denmead, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Elsie Hall, Steve Johnson, Sue Key, Jackie Koman, Mark Murphy, Stacy Phillips, Gary Recktenwald, David Taylor, and Brian Teagarden

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Chris Bury, Shirley Desmond, and Debbie Evans

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Emily Miller, Janet Nevin and Don Nixon

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened by the Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, on Monday, June 3, 2013 at 7:03 p.m. in the Parlor. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with a devotional reading from II Corinthians 9:6 about being willing to spread Christ's message in the world.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Sue Denmead, the June 2013 Session docket was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2013 SESSION MEETING

After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Steve Johnson, the minutes from the May 2013 Session meeting were unanimously approved with minor revisions.

SESSION MEETINGS

A special Session meeting will be held on Sunday, June 16, 2013 starting at 10:30 a.m. to receive new members. A special Session meeting will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2013 to receive the 2013 confirmation class as new members. Dr. Broberg noted that 20 people had signed up for the new members class so far. After a motion was made by Stacy Phillips and seconded by Brian Teagarden, the Session unanimously approved the dates for these meetings.

APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS

Julie and Erik Densmore request that baptism of their son, **Cameron Robert Densmore**, born June 23, 2013, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on June 23, 2013. Mark Murphy moved to approve the baptism, Sue Denmead seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Doug and Gretchen Patterson requested that their membership be transferred to the Congregational Church of South Hero in South Hero, Vermont. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Linda Grimm, the Session unanimously approved this transfer. Dr. Broberg and Terri Grantz reported back to the Session from the May meeting of the Washington Presbytery. The Presbytery approved the extension of Rev. Miller's contract at this meeting. They also reported that Jim Agnew was approved to move from inquirer to candidate.

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There were no baptisms, weddings or funerals reported to the Session at this meeting.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Review and Approve Strategic Plan from the Intreat

Dr. Broberg and Jonathan Pachter reviewed the information presented at the Session Intreat on Saturday, June 1, 2013. The results from that meeting are presented in the attachment to these minutes. After considerable discussion, Mark Murphy moved to approve this outline as the church's strategic plan. April Betzner seconded the motion and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Next, Stacy Phillips presented her PowerPoint summary of a paper she did for a class at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This provided an example of how local mission is a real need and how we can help. Dr. Broberg noted that Stacy's presentation provided examples of how the Session should try to push out 2-3 ministries in fall 2013, tying into needs like those highlighted in Stacy's report. God in Action groups could be used for these types of efforts, as well as for: a Stephen ministry program, after-school tutoring, Friends of Jesus, Meals on Wheels, and another overseas Mission trip. He asked the Mission and OAR Committees (which is already doing this for groups on our Supported Mission list) to sort through these ideas and develop three conceptual projects to present on Involvement Day on September 22, 2013, and also define who will be responsible for coordinating them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Brian said that giving was down again in May but we were still up \$3,000 for the year regarding our budget. He asked that any Committee should decide well in advance for any fundraisers that need his Committee's approval, since the Finance Committee wants to start keeping a fundraising calendar.

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary advised the Session that it should expect to see a large increase in 2014 medical coverage expenses, approximately \$8,000. Gary also pointed out that staff meetings will take place on June 21 and 22. Interviews will start soon for the part-time janitor.

OAR Committee – Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna mentioned her Committee's mission support list and doing planning for involvement day in the fall 2013. Don Nixon mentioned training for the upcoming Awakening (June 10th at the Life Church) and how to engage people who are attending the Whiskey Rebellion activities. Dr. Broberg noted how nice Confirmation Sunday was, and thanked Don for his efforts with the confirmation program.

Stewardship Committee – In Debbie Evans' absence, Dr. Broberg mentioned that all Moments for Mission opportunities in the fall 2013 will be used for the thematic missional effort.

Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – in referring the Session members to his Committee's written report, Steve said the this Committee will be working on a Mission directory. Steve also asked that any involvement with people or programs at W&J should be coordinated with Karen Davison who knows how things get done at the college. It was also pointed out that this year's Women of Faith weekend will be held at the same time as our Outreach Weekend.

Worship and Music Committee – Jackie Koman – there was no additional information to report beyond that presented in the Committee’s written report.

Christian Education Committee – Janet Nevin noted that the CE Committee did not meet in May 2013. She said there is still a need for people to volunteer to help at Vacation Bible School. She also thanked Don for his work with the confirmands, and thanked Camille Braun for coordinating the breakfast for the confirmands and their families.

Nominating Committee – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – Elsie said that her Committee is still compiling the slate for this year, and that more people are needed to fill it out.

Building and Grounds Committee – Mark Murphy, Chairperson – no report.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – Nothing additional to report beyond the Intreat information discussed earlier.

Endowment Committee - Sue Key Chairperson - no report.

Memorial Committee – no report.

APNC Committee - Steve Johnson said that the Committee has narrowed the associate pastor search down to three individuals, interviews are scheduled, and the search is on schedule.

NO JULY 2013 SESSION MEETING

The Session agreed to cancel the July Session meeting and meet on August 5. If an issue comes up that requires the Session’s attention, all agreed that the Session could meet in July. Mark Murphy made that motion, April Betzner seconded the motion, and the Session passed the motion unanimously.

DATES OF NOTE

The next scheduled Communion will be on Sunday, July 7, 2013. The next Stated Session meeting will be on Monday, August 5, 2013, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on September 10, 2013 at the First Presbyterian Church in Finleyville. Shirley Desmond and Donna Carlisle are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Mark Murphy with a second from Sue Key, the Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. Dr. Broberg then closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

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Jonathan M. Pachter
Clerk of Session